



## Providing Afghanistan's Urban Poor with Bread



Photo: USAID/World Food Program

One of eighty-three women-owned bakeries in Afghanistan provide those in need with a daily ration of fortified bread at a subsidized price.

Following years of war and drought, USAID's Title II food commodities are reaching those in need in Afghanistan through the World Food Program (WFP). One of WFP's major relief programs in Afghanistan gives Title II fortified wheat flour to women-owned bakeries. These bakeries are managed by widows and help feed the elderly, disabled, widows, orphans, and other destitute families.

In 2003, this program reached over 176,000 people through eighty-three bakeries which provide a daily ration of fortified bread to those in need at a subsidized price. The bread produced by the women-run bakeries is of superior quality since it is made with fortified wheat flour, much of which is provided by USAID. The bread is over two times larger than the typical product produced by commercial bakeries.

Under WFP's supervision, the bakeries are run and managed by women through women's committees. This program is creating jobs for women while simultaneously assisting the poor through a daily portion of bread. Women in Afghanistan are typically isolated in their homes and rarely have the opportunity to leave their homesteads. The bakery program is providing opportunities for women to step out of their homes and into the workforce.

Success Story

